chase of mobile vans to the following States:—

State	Assistance (Rs.in lakh's)	No. of Vehicles
1. Andhra Pradesh .	6·00	3
2. Assam . .	5·29	3
3. Bihar . .	16·73	12
4. Madhya Pradesh	37·00	20
5. Orissa . .	22·00	11
6. Rajasthan . .	8·00	4
TOTAL	95·02	53

During the financial year 1986-87, a sum of Rs. 19.00 lakhs was released to the Government of Manipur for purchase of 9 vans for operating mobile fair price shops in the interior areas of the State.

Production of pulses and oilseeds

1749. SHRI JAGESH DESAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total area in hectare on which pulses and oilseeds were cultivated during the years 1982-83, 1983-84, 1984-85, 1985-86; and the areas in hectares in which these are likely to be cultviated in 1986-87; and

(b) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to supply fertilisers and improved seeds at subsidised rates to farmers of these two crops?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) The total area under pulses and oilseeds cultivation during 1982-83 to 1985-86 is as below:

(Area Million hectares)

Year	Pluses	Oilseeds)
1982-83	22·83	17·76
1983-84	23·54	18·69
1984-85	22·74	18·92
1985-86	23·82	18·87

As for 1986-87, the final estimates for Kharif crops have not yet fallen due. However, on the basis of preliminary reports available from the States, area under Kharif Pulses and Oilseeds is expected to show a rise over the previous year. Rabi sowings in some of the States are still in proress. It is, therefore, not possible to indicate the likely coverage under these crops during 1986-87, at present.

(b) There is no proposal to supply fertilisers and improved seeds at subsidised rates to the farmers. However, free minikits of Pulses and Oilseeds are being distributed to the farmers under the National Pulses Development Programme, National Oil seeds Development Project and the Small and Marginal Farmers Programme.

Implementation of IRDP

1750. SHRI D. B. CHANDRE GOWDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have recently urged the State Governments to implements the IRDP effectively;

(b) if so, the allocations made to each State for the IRDP during the last three years;

(c) whether the Union Government have asked for any report from the

State Government, about the progress achieved in implementing the IRDP programmes; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAMANAND YADAV): (a) A Conference of Secretaries and Ministers of Rural Development was held on 23rd and 24th October, 1986 respectively. The implementation of rural development programmes in general and IRDP in particular, was reviewed. The States have been advised to ensure that targets fixed for the current year are achieved.

(b) A statement indicating allocation made to each State for IRDP during the last three years is attached [*See* Appendix CXL, Annexure No 69]

(c) and (d) The States are required to send monthly progress reports as per key indicators for monitoring of the programme. No separate report has been asked for.

Revision of list of scheduled castes

1751. SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the norms for considering a particular caste as scheduled caste;

(b) whether there are some communities, who do not conform to these norms are included in the list of Scheduled Castes at present, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what action Government propose to take to ensure that the list is revised in terms of the norms?

THE DEPUTY MINSTER IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) to (c) The norms adopted for scheduling a community as Scheduled Caste in relation to a State/Union Territory include fulfilling the criteria viz., extreme social, educational and economic backwardness arising out of the traditional practice of untouchability and consultation with the concerned State Government/Union Territory Administration and the Registrar General of India. The above norms were adopted while notifying Presidential Orders specifying Scheduled Castes in relation to various States/Union Territorises in accordance with the provisions made under Article 341 of the Constitution.

Imported steel billets

1752. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item published in the Hindustan Times dated the 4th October, 1986 under the caption "No claimant for imported billets";

(b) what were the specifications given by the SAIL to the MMTC for import of the billets;

(c) what were the specifications given by the MMTC to the contractor — supplier of the billets;

(d) whether it is a fact that the billets were examined by an independent body before the shipment, if so, what is the report of the body; and

(e) what is the extent of loss likely to be suffered in this deal and what action is being taken by the SAIL/MMTC to settle the issue?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI K. C. PANT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Steel Authority of India Limited had requested Minerals and Metlas Trading Corporation of India Limited for import of billets conforming to IS: 2830/75 Gr. II Fe 410 SB